

GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS.

CHEAP EXCURSION TO THE HAWKSLEY RIVER.
In conjunction with the Steamer GENERAL GORDON, Wednesday, March 23.
TRAIN will leave Sydney at 8.30 a.m. and return at 4.30 p.m. The River Trip will occupy 5 hours.
RETURN FAERS from Sydney and Suburban Stations, including the General Gordon Trip. First-class, 6d; Second-class, 2s 6d.
REFRESHMENTS can be obtained on board the steamer at reasonable rates.

MUDGEES SHOW.

MARCH 22, 23, and 24.
CHEAP TICKETS.

At Single Fare for Return Journey (minimum rates in First-class, and in Second-class) will be issued to MUDGEES AT SYDNEY, RICHMOND, BATHURST, and intermediate Stations, commencing on Wednesday, March 22, and thereafter by trains direct to MUDGEES up to 10.15 a.m. on Wednesday, March 22, available for return until SATURDAY, March 25.

PENNITH'S S.H.O.W.

MARCH 24 and 25.

CHEAP TICKETS.

At Single Fare for Return Journey (minimum rates in First-class, and in Second-class) will be issued to MUDGEES AT SYDNEY, RICHMOND, BATHURST, and intermediate Stations, commencing on Wednesday, March 22, and thereafter by trains direct to MUDGEES up to 10.15 a.m. on Wednesday, March 22, available for return until SATURDAY, March 25.

THE MOST REMARKABLE PLAY OF MODERN DATE.

THE SIGN OF THE CROSS.

FAREWELL OF MR. TEE'S COMPANY.

LAST PRODUCTION OF THE SEASON.

OVERFLOWING AND TREMENDOUSLY ENTHUSIASTIC AUDIENCES.

A MEMORABLE AND MAGNIFICENT REVIVAL,

A GREATER SUCCESS THAN EVER.

TO-NIGHT AT 8 o'clock precisely.

WILSON BARRETT'S WORLD RECORD DRAMA,

AND THE MOST REMARKABLE PLAY OF MODERN DATE.

THE SIGN OF THE CROSS.

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SPORTING.

THE TURF.

Weights for the Hawkesbury Racing Club's Autumn meeting, to be held next Saturday, will be posted today.

The weekly meeting of the Rosebery Park Racing Club will be held to-day, the first event starting at 2.15 p.m. Numerous entries have been received, and the sport should prove interesting. Special trials will be run every 12 minutes between 12.45 p.m. and 1.30 p.m., in addition to which there will be the ordinary services.

Entries closed yesterday in winning the Hawkesbury Stakes on Saturday in road style. The event was run under weight-for-age conditions, an allowance of 10 lbs being made to horses that had won the A.J.C. Derby winner, Beldah, was among the runners, of whom Long Feng, Salda, Little Moon, Cakewalk, and Overland claimed the top four positions. There was early running, but at the entrance to the straight the former was done with, and Air Pilot took the place. The colt hung on in style, the first-named pair were pulling over him, and the last came home in a dead heat.

Archie Laddie's daughter shook him off at the distance and won with something in hand. Beldah, however, shaped very well, and as it is the first public race of the year, the odds should do him a decent of good. The wins were always favourite, while a lot of money went on Little Mary. Overdale performed much creditably, and will be sent to make great improvement to have a chance in the Duncaster Handicap or Sydney Cup.

MELBOURNE SPORTING NEWS.

MELBOURNE, Sunday.

Czarowitch failed to run up to expectations in the Sandown Park Autumn Cup, and was beaten by 10 lengths. He was beaten in the race that it was doubtful if the Little Bertie team would ever to Randwick for the A.J.C. meeting. Since his fall last year in the Victoria Octagon Stakes (Duke of York) he has done no good.

ROSEHILL RACING CLUB.

AUTUMN MEETING.

SECOND DAY.

AIR MOTOR WINS THE RAWSON STAKES.

CRESTY AND IRONBROOK SUCCESSFUL.

The Autumn Meeting of the Rosehill Racing Club brought a successful conclusion on Saturday.

The afternoon was fine and pleasant, while the weather was cool enough to keep the spectators comfortable.

Mr. J. H. Smith, the manager, and F.J.A. all of whom look remarkably well in their long, thin riding journey. Eustace has ridden out into a magnificence horse since he was last seen, and is a very different animal to what he was in the spring, while no fault, except in the matter of size, can be found with F.J.A.'s conformation or build. The horse is a good specimen, and in charge of the Victorian springer, Silvana, who will be shortly shipped from Sydney to the East.

The Victorian jumper, Sigaro, who is entered at the coming A.J.C. meeting, is under orders for Sydney, and is expected here during the week.

On Saturday 29 thoroughbreds from such tracks as Randwick, and the property of Mr. J. H. Smith, arrived at Randwick, and were taken charge of by T. Payne. This pair, after a few hours' rest, were off to Randwick for the A.J.C. meeting.

They had not yet come to the meet, and were staying at the Royal Hotel, with Mr. Smith.

E. C. Taylor's team of racehorses in training at Randwick had been increased to a number of horses, and were staying at the Royal River district. They are a two-year-old filly off St. Blaise from Leda by King, brought from Leda as a three-year-old gelding by Kepke. The nursery Handicaps at Rosehill on Saturday brought a brace of Grade-1 winners. Peter Murphy's string was elected favourite, and the due won, only after a sharp engagement with the others. Silvana finished just behind the placed horses, while the three mentioned were giving away a lot of weight.

The northern districts horse, Creasy, who is trained by Morphett at J. Chambers, was returned a winner at Sandown. The horse, a gelding, was elected favourite, and the Grange Stakes, but it was subsequently discovered that he was ineligible to compete. It was then started in the Grange Stakes, and was easily beaten by the secretary, Mr. J. Dunnigan. Following are details of the racing:

THE GRANGE STAKES OF 50 lbs; second 10 more.

Mr. H. E. A. and V. White's filly, St. Blaise, by St. Blaise, from Leda by King, was elected favourite, and won by 10 lengths.

Mr. George Ainsworth's filly, Syra, by St. Blaise, and Mr. A. May's & S. Nigro's, Syra, by St. Blaise, from Leda by King, were third and fourth.

Mr. G. Smith's filly, St. Blaise, by King, and St. Blaise, by King, from Leda by King, were fifth and sixth.

Mr. G. Smith's gelding, St. Blaise, by King, and St. Blaise, by King, from Leda by King, were seventh and eighth.

Mr. G. Smith's gelding, St. Blaise, by King, and St. Blaise, by King, from Leda by King, were ninth and tenth.

Mr. G. Smith's gelding, St. Blaise, by King, and St. Blaise, by King, from Leda by King, were eleventh and twelfth.

Mr. G. Smith's gelding, St. Blaise, by King, and St. Blaise, by King, from Leda by King, were thirteenth and fourteenth.

Mr. G. Smith's gelding, St. Blaise, by King, and St. Blaise, by King, from Leda by King, were fifteenth and sixteenth.

Mr. G. Smith's gelding, St. Blaise, by King, and St. Blaise, by King, from Leda by King, were seventeenth and eighteenth.

Mr. G. Smith's gelding, St. Blaise, by King, and St. Blaise, by King, from Leda by King, were nineteenth and twentieth.

Mr. G. Smith's gelding, St. Blaise, by King, and St. Blaise, by King, from Leda by King, were twenty-first and twenty-second.

Mr. G. Smith's gelding, St. Blaise, by King, and St. Blaise, by King, from Leda by King, were twenty-third and twenty-fourth.

Mr. G. Smith's gelding, St. Blaise, by King, and St. Blaise, by King, from Leda by King, were twenty-fifth and twenty-sixth.

Mr. G. Smith's gelding, St. Blaise, by King, and St. Blaise, by King, from Leda by King, were twenty-seventh and twenty-eighth.

Mr. G. Smith's gelding, St. Blaise, by King, and St. Blaise, by King, from Leda by King, were twenty-ninth and thirtieth.

Mr. G. Smith's gelding, St. Blaise, by King, and St. Blaise, by King, from Leda by King, were thirty-first and thirty-second.

Mr. G. Smith's gelding, St. Blaise, by King, and St. Blaise, by King, from Leda by King, were thirty-third and thirty-fourth.

Mr. G. Smith's gelding, St. Blaise, by King, and St. Blaise, by King, from Leda by King, were thirty-fifth and thirty-sixth.

Mr. G. Smith's gelding, St. Blaise, by King, and St. Blaise, by King, from Leda by King, were thirty-seventh and thirty-eighth.

Mr. G. Smith's gelding, St. Blaise, by King, and St. Blaise, by King, from Leda by King, were thirty-ninth and fortieth.

Mr. G. Smith's gelding, St. Blaise, by King, and St. Blaise, by King, from Leda by King, were forty-first and forty-second.

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Mr. G. Smith's gelding, St. Blaise, by King, and St. Blaise, by King, from Leda by King, were forty-ninth and fiftieth.

Mr. G. Smith's gelding, St. Blaise, by King, and St. Blaise, by King, from Leda by King, were fifty-first and fifty-second.

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Mr. G. Smith's gelding, St. Blaise, by King, and St. Blaise, by King, from Leda by King, were fifty-seventh and fifty-eighth.

Mr. G. Smith's gelding, St. Blaise, by King, and St. Blaise, by King, from Leda by King, were fifty-ninth and sixtieth.

Mr. G. Smith's gelding, St. Blaise, by King, and St. Blaise, by King, from Leda by King, were sixtieth and sixtieth.

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Mr. G. Smith's gelding, St. Blaise, by King, and

THE NEW ELECTORATES.



RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR.

JAPAN'S ASPIRATIONS.

INTERVIEW WITH A DIPLOMAT.

FIGHTING THE WORLD'S BATTLE.

MORE RUSSIAN CHARGES.

JAPANESE TREACHERY.

REGARDING DELIVERY OF DESPATCHES.

LONDON, March 20.

Baron Suyematsu, the Japanese diplomat who has been accredited to the Courts of Europe to explain to them the position of Japan, and who arrived in London recently, in the course of an interview stated that he welcomed the Anglo-French entente cordiale, and he considered it to be a powerful factor towards localising the war between Japan and Russia.

Japan, he said, was really fighting for the political and commercial interests of the civilised world to prevent Russia subjugating Manchuria, Korea, and a great part of Northern China.

Japan, he said, was proud of the British alliance, but had not the remotest idea of seeking armed assistance from anyone.

Probably Japan was better aware of Russia's weak points than Russia herself.

Russia's naval weakness had been already exposed, and he was confident that her enemies of land would soon be repelled.

1 RUSSIAN DIPLOMAT'S CHARGES.

JAPAN INTERCEPTED RUSSIAN DESPATCHES.

AND DESPATCHED A FLEET

TO STRIKE THE FIRST BLOW.

LONDON, March 18.

A French correspondent interviewed on his arrival at Port Said Baron von Rosen, who prior to the outbreak of the Russo-Japanese war was Russian Minister to St. Petersburg, and who is now in London, said lastly: "The Russian Note in Japan's last Note was never delivered before the Japanese fleet sailed from Seaboo. Russia says white, Japan says black; so there we are!"

Baron von Rosen declares that Russia's reply to the last Japanese Note was intercepted at sea, and that the Russian Minister to London in Tokyo, was handed his passport before the Japanese fleet sailed from Seaboo.

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RUSSIAN FORCES IN MANCHURIA.

LONDON, March 19.

A telegram from St. Petersburg to Paris states that General Kropatkin telegraphs that there are 230,000 Russian troops between Harbin and Port Arthur.

THE JAPANESE DIET.

LONDON, March 19.

The Japanese Diet, which has recently returned from a general election, has been opened.

COAL REQUIRED BY THE RUSSIANS.

LONDON, March 18.

Russians require 75,000 tons of coal at Port Arthur, but are reluctant to pay famine and blockade prices.

British shippers hesitate to contract to supply coal to Russia at lower rates.

RUSSIAN PRIZE COURTS.

LONDON, March 18.

Russia has established Naval Prize Courts at Sebastopol, Libau, Port Arthur, in the Baltic, and Vladivostok.

THE ACCIDENT TO A WAR CORRESPONDENT.

LONDON, March 18.

Mr. F. A. Mackenzie, the war correspondent at Chemulpho of the "Daily Mail," did not break his leg, as was at first reported. The only injury received by him was a badly-sprained wrist.

COMMENTS ON THE SITUATION.

LONDON, March 19.

The muzzling of the war correspondents is the only point on which Japan and Russia are not at issue. The profession of war correspondent is in peril. Better that they may stay at home and Japan, than that the war correspondents should imperil their plans and their troops. The result is that the reliable news from Korea and Manchuria is small. The war correspondents are acting with dignity. It is better that our cables should for a day or two have no news about the movements of the armies than that they should be sent the chit-chat and noise reports of Seoul, Tientsin, Chihu, and Shanghai.

The Russians are elaborating on their charges against the Japanese. The chief ones are: (1) Intercepting and delaying the mail to the Far East; (2) intercepting a wire of command to Varyag's commander, thus making the Chemulpho incident a slaughter; (3) that Vice-Admiral Togo sailed for Port Arthur before the first shot of the war was fired from a Russian gun; (4) that the Varyag and the Korets, when the command of the Korean port, both the Korets and the Varyag were destroyed fighting heroically against odds.

It is laid down in Hall's treatise on International Law that "a belligerent who when attacked in neutral territory, elects to defend himself instead of retreating, thereby subjects the neutral to his host, by his own violation of neutrality frees the neutral from responsibility." Both the Varyag and the Korets returned the Japanese fire after the Korets had begun the music. Korea, in the instance, was "the neutral" concerned.

The only obligation remaining binding upon belligerents is that they should without reasonable period formally notify neutrals that a state of war exists. It is true that the commanders of all the foreign warships at

Chemulpho twice protested to the Japanese Admiral against the attack on the Varyag and the Korets on the ground that Chemulpho was a neutral port. Korea, however, could hardly be regarded as Japan's neutral, as it was the independent which both Russia and Japan had guaranteed to her had been violated by Russia, in the previous summer, by the terrible seizure of land at Yangtso-pu, on the Yalu.

The so-called neutrality of Korea was a farce. The law as to neutrals implies certain duties. The neutral must not allow its territory to be worked over, but it was not required to do so. The rights involved in neutrality are equally applied to each belligerent. To impose such obligations on Korea—the cockpit of the East—was absurd. Otherwise the Russians would not have been at Yangtso-pu.

All said and done, telegram trickery included, the argument is narrowed the point whether Japan violated international law in making attacks before declaring war. That is the main question.

The fact that Russian officials assert that they wired to the Varyag's commander fixes the date of the rupture of diplomatic relations. After that rupture there was nothing in international law to stop Japan from letting loose all the demons forces of war. She did so, and the Russians were caught napping.

All recognised authorities agree that it is not necessary to formally declare a state of war. Otherwise the stain of treachery lies at the door of other nations besides Russia. An authority who took the trouble to study the question found that between 1760 and 1870 there were only 19 instances in which a formal declaration preceded acts of hostility.

In the case of the English Revolution it is clear that Baron Suyematsu was right. In the case of the English Revolution it is clear that Baron Suyematsu was right.

Mr. Suyematsu's argument is narrow. The most warlike organ of the Russian press is perhaps the "Svet," which is edited by a military general who has seen service, and has obviously frequent opportunities of obtaining information from those who are other members of the capital. This paper writes the Moscow correspondent of the London "Daily Telegraph" refers to the calmness with which the people have received all the news from the Far East as proving the real greatness of Russia. "Cowardice has never been one of the qualities of the Russian people," wrote the "Svet." The Russian press was threatened, not merely with their destruction as a State, but with their annihilation as a people. "The fight against the Tartars and the battle of Borodino against Napoleon's exhausted forces being cited to back the statement." "As to Japan this is a master stroke of the Russian press."

On the announcement being made there was frantic activity about the aspect of the Far East problem which commands attention when it is found in a Russian newspaper at such a time as the present.

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